Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of forming a security image from two or more images comprising:

manipulating tonal values of each image element of a first image to take values within a first set of tonal values;

manipulating tonal values of each image element of a second image to take values within a second set of tonal values; and

forming a security image from the manipulated tonal values of the first and second images, the first and second sets of tonal values being selected so that at least one of the first and second images is concealed in the security image.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising selecting the first image to be a visible image and selecting the second image to be an encoded image which can be decoded using a decoding screen so that the encoded image is the image concealed in the security image.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:

manipulating tonal values of each image element of at least one additional image to take values within an additional set of tonal values; and

forming the security image from the manipulated

tonal values of the first, second and at least one additional images.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the encoded image is selected to be a digitally modulated image.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first set of tonal values is selected to be larger than the second set of tonal values.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the number of tones in the first and second sets is equal to the number of available tones for the image representation technique.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of the first and second sets of tonal values are ranges of consecutive tones, the sum of the ranges being equal to the number of available tones in the range of tones for the image representation technique.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first and second images are full tone range images and

each of the first and second images are manipulated by proportionally compressing the values of the tones to take values within the first and second ranges.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising concealing a plurality of images within the security image in such a manner that they can each be decoded by a processing means.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17 comprising combining a plurality of two tone images including at least said first image and said second image, and manipulating each image element of each two tone image to take one of the values of a bit, and

forming the security image by adding the values of the respective bits to obtain a grey scale value for each image elements.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17 comprising allocating segments of a code for defining the tonal value of each image element of the security image as the sets of tonal values for respective ones of the plurality of images so that the segments can be combined to form a composite tonal value of each image element without disturbing the values of the segments so they, and hence the plurality of images, can be decoded.

Claims 20-21 (Canceled)

22. (Original) A security device comprising:

a security image formed from manipulated tonal values of first and second images, the first and second images being manipulated to take values within the first and second sets of tonal values, the sets of tonal values being selected so that at least one of the first and second images is concealed in the security image.

23. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first image is a visible image and the second image is an encoded image which can be decoded using a decoding screen so that the encoded image is the image concealed in the security image.

24. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the encoded image is a digitally modulated image.

25. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first set of tonal values is larger than the second set of tonal values.

Claims 26-27 (Canceled)

28. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the number of tones in the first and second sets is equal to the number of available tones for the image representation technique.

29. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 28 wherein each of the first and second sets of tonal values are ranges of consecutive tones, the sum of the ranges being equal to the number of available tones in the range of tones for the image representation technique.

30. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 28 wherein at least one of the first and second sets of tonal values comprises two or more ranges of consecutive tones.

Claims 31-33 (Canceled)

34.(Currently Amended) A security device as claimed in claim 33 wherein a plurality of two tone images including at least said first image and said second image are combined and manipulated by allocating each image element of each two tone image one of the values of a bit, and

~~forming~~ the security image is formed by adding the values of the respective bits to obtain a grey scale value for each image elements.

35. (Original) A security device as claimed in claim 34 wherein segments of a code for defining the tonal value of each image element of the security image are allocated as the sets of tonal values for respective ones of the plurality of images so that the segments can be combined to form a composite tonal value of each image element without disturbing the values of the segments so they, and hence the plurality of images, can be decoded.

Claims 36-37 (Canceled)